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Title:

Speech at the opening of the new premises of Watson Victor Limited, North Adelaide

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, HON. DON DUNSTAN, G.C., M.P., AT THE
OPENING OF THE NEW PREMISES OF WATSON VICTOR LIMITED,
NORTH ADELAIDE. 22ND SEPT., 1967.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MR. SMALL, MR. GADEN, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE PRESENT TODAY TO PERFORM THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THESE NEW PREMISES BUILT BY WATSON VICTOR LIMITED. THE PREMISES AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMPANY REPRESENT AN IMPORTANT ADDITION TO THIS SECTION OF OUR CITY, AND THEIR PRESENCE IS WELCOMED NOT ONLY BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, BUT, I AM SURE, ALSO BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL.

THE W. WATSON & SONS LIMITED GROUP OF COMPANIES IS AN AUSTRALIAN ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED SOME 79 YEARS AGO DURING WHICH TIME IT HAS PROGRESSED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY. WHILST THE COMPANY MANUFACTURES SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS AND INSTRUMENTS IN AUSTRALIA, ACTUAL MANUFACTURE DOES NOT TAKE PLACE YET IN

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA, BUT THE PREMISES WE SEE TODAY PROVIDE THE MEANS OF AN IMPORTANT DISTRIBUTING CENTRE TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF MEDICINE, RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND A CENTRE WHERE SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS ARE SERVICED AND MAINTAINED. I AM SURE, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT THIS NEW BUILDING TO CATER FOR THE INCREASING VOLUME OF BUSINESS WHICH YOUR COMPANY DOES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, IS BUT A STEPPING STONE TOWARDS THE INTRODUCTION OF MANUFACTURE OF YOUR PRODUCTS IN THIS STATE.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA IS FAST BECOMING THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL STATE OF AUSTRALIA. OUR TRADESMEN HAVE BEEN NOTED ALWAYS FOR THEIR SPECIAL SKILLS, AND WITH THE PROGRESS OF OUR UNIVERSITIES, OUR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, THE AUSTRALIAN MINERAL AND DEVELOPMENT LABORATORIES, AND OTHER TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS, WE ARE PLACED ADEQUATELY TO PROGRESS RAPIDLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT

OF INDUSTRY ASSOCIATED WITH SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION.

THE MANAGEMENT OF YOUR GROUP OF COMPANIES, MR. CHAIRMAN, AND THE EMPLOYEES WHO WORK WITHIN IT, ENJOY THE SATISFACTION THAT THE PRODUCTS SUPPLIED, SERVICED, AND MAINTAINED, ARE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL. THE EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED TO HOSPITALS ENABLES THE EFFECTIVE TREATMENT AND DISCHARGE OF PATIENTS. THE SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED TO RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS ENABLES THE SPEEDING-UP OF THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS WHICH THE COMMUNITY FACES IN GENERAL. THE MANUFACTURER IS ABLE TO PRODUCE A BETTER ARTICLE AT A LOWER COST, AND THE TEACHING PROFESSION TRAINS ITS STUDENTS MORE EFFECTIVELY THROUGH THE USE OF THE EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTED BY YOUR COMPANY. ALL THESE RESULTS ARE TO THE BENEFIT OF OUR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AND OUR AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY IN GENERAL.

WE LIVE IN AN AGE WHEN THE SCIENCES ARE ADVANCING AT A RAPID RATE. THE AIDS OF SCIENCE HAVE GIVEN US IN RECENT TIMES, KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS THAT A COMPARATIVELY FEW YEARS AGO WERE NOT CONTEMPLATED. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT A COMPANY ACTIVE IN THE FIELDS OF PRODUCTION AND SERVICE SUCH AS THE WATSON GROUP ENGAGES IN, SHOULD ALWAYS BE IN A POSITION TO MAINTAIN PROGRESS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE ADVANCE OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

I FEEL SURE THESE NEW PREMISES IN NORTH ADELAIDE WILL ENABLE THE COMPANY NOT ONLY TO MAINTAIN ITS PAST HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, BUT WILL PROVIDE IMPROVED FACILITIES WHEREBY THE COMPANY'S ENGINEERS ENGAGED IN THE MAINTENANCE OF THE FULL RANGE OF EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY THE GROUP OF COMPANIES, WILL PROVIDE A SERVICE IN KEEPING WITH ALL

KNOWLEDGE.

I UNDERSTAND, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT YOUR CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN THE LAND AND BUILDINGS ON THIS SITE REPRESENTS AN OUTLAY OF \$125,000, AND WHEN THE PLANT AND STOCK ARE ADDED TO THIS FIGURE, THE TOTAL INVESTMENT IS \$320,000. AS PREMIER OF THE STATE, I WELCOME THIS INVESTMENT AND THE EMPLOYMENT IT PROVIDES. I COMPLIMENT THE COMPANY, THE ARCHITECT, THE BUILDERS AND ALL THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ERECTION OF THESE FINE FACILITIES. I ALSO COMPLIMENT THE COMPANY ON ITS CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, FOR NO COMPANY OR INDIVIDUAL WOULD MAKE AN INVESTMENT OF THIS NATURE UNLESS ITS ASSESSMENT OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ENSURED THAT SUCH AN EXPENDITURE WOULD PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE RETURN ON CAPITAL OUTLAY.

IN DECLARING THESE PREMISES OFFICIALLY OPEN, I EXPRESS
THE WISH THAT THE COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WILL
PROSPER WITH THE GENERAL PROGRESS OF THE STATE, AND THAT THE
EMPLOYEES WHO WORK HERE WILL FIND MUCH SATISFACTION IN THE
IMPORTANT TASKS IN WHICH THEY ENGAGE.
